

**ParkLands Foundation  
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Jim Mohr

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Find us on the web at:

[www.parklandsfoundation.org](http://www.parklandsfoundation.org)

**Newsletter**

**April -**

**May 2010**

## Work Warms Up Winter

ParkLands Foundation has hosted two work days since the new year. The first workday took place on January 16th. On that date we cut and treated exotic woody plants at the Gas Well portion of the Merwin Preserve. ParkLands would like to thank Wayne Gustafson, Bob Moseley and Doug Welch for their help with the work day. We appreciate your efforts, especially as it was quite cold that day!

The second work day that we hosted was on the 30th of January. On that date we cut and treated honeysuckle and cut understory trees like maple, elm and ash. We have been working on this area near the South Gate for a few years now. We are starting to see the difference in the number of exotics that are present on this site. In the future we will try to implement a prescribed burn on the site to help promote the native ground layer. Thanks to all of the volunteers that help us with our stewardship needs. We always welcome participants. Check the calendar in the newsletter, join my e-mail list or log onto [www.parklandsfoundation.org](http://www.parklandsfoundation.org) to find a Saturday that's good for you. We promise warmer weather.

*Jason Shoemaker*



*ParkLands would like to thank Wayne Gustafson, and Doug Welch for their help with the January workdays.*

## Celebrate Spring - Take a wildflower walk April 11 & May 9



ParkLands now has a fan page on Facebook, a multi-media social networking

website. Many nonprofits use Facebook to spread the word about the organization, recruit new members and keep people updated on what we are doing.

To visit our page, make sure you sign up for a free Facebook account at <http://facebook.com> and type "ParkLands Foundation" in the search box. Once you "friend" ParkLands, all entries automatically will be sent to your Facebook account.

We will be following the Sweeney Woods' restoration closely. You can expect two to three short entries weekly. Feel free to share your ParkLands photos!

*Gretchen Knapp*

### Prairie State Conservation Coalition

In 2006, ParkLands became a member of Prairie State Conservation Coalition. The mission of PSCC is "to assist conservation land trusts, land owners and communities to protect land and water resources in Illinois". The overarching goal of PSCC is to strengthen conservation land trusts such as ParkLands by a) providing continuing education and training opportunities; b) advocating for strong statewide policies that benefit land trusts; and c) providing networking opportunities. Over the next year ParkLands will be collaborating with PSCC to address vital issues such as national conservation defense insurance, Land Trust Alliance Accreditation and peer-to-peer networking. To this end, ParkLands Directors will meet this spring with Fran Harty, President of PSCC, to discuss ways to enhance collaboration between our organization and PSCC.

*Mary Horgan*

# Meet your ParkLands board member — *Jim Mohr*



I have been a ParkLands Board member for 4 years. I am semi-retired from farming in Lexington. My wife Patty is retired from the U. S. Postal Service where she worked as a rural

route mail carrier. We have three grown children and seven grandchildren.

I grew up on a farm near the original Merwin Tract. I graduated from Lexington schools and earned a B. S. in agriculture education from the University of Illinois. I was determined to work as a high school vocational agriculture teacher until the opportunity to farm was presented to me prior to graduating from the University of Illinois.

I have seen ParkLands grow from very small beginnings to the large natural area that it is now. I knew Emil Rediger, Clarence Ropp (my uncle) and Stanley Lantz, some of the early proponents of a natural areas park. Some of the land that I have farmed and some of the land that originally belonged to my family are now owned by ParkLands Foundation.

Since I live close to ParkLands properties and have some extra time, I enjoy helping Land Steward Jason Shoemaker. We've worked together clearing brush and building fences.

I appreciate the quality people and the diverse backgrounds and vocations of the board members. I believe the commitment of these men and women will ensure the future success of ParkLands Foundation.

## Calendar of Events



**Spring Wildflower Walk**  
Sunday, April 11, 1:00 p.m.  
Merwin Preserve South Gate  
Dale Birkenholz, leader  
309-452-8086  
[dbirke@ilstu.edu](mailto:dbirke@ilstu.edu)

**Invasive species control**  
Saturday, April 17, 9 a.m.  
Merwin Preserve North Gate  
Work days Leader:  
Jason Shoemaker  
309-531-7065  
[shoemaj@hotmail.com](mailto:shoemaj@hotmail.com)

**Garlic Mustard control**  
Saturday, April 24, 9 a.m.  
Merwin Preserve South Gate  
Work days Leader:  
Mary Horgan  
309-527-5636  
[horgan@mcchs.org](mailto:horgan@mcchs.org)



**Spring Wildflower Walk**  
Sunday, May 9, 1:00 p.m.  
Merwin Preserve West Gate  
Roger Anderson, leader  
(309) 452-5728  
[rcander1941msn.com](http://rcander1941msn.com)

**Invasive species control**  
Saturday, June 5, 9 a.m.  
Merwin Preserve South Gate  
Work days Leader:  
Jason Shoemaker  
309-531-7065  
[shoemaj@hotmail.com](mailto:shoemaj@hotmail.com)

**NOTE: Dates are subject to change.  
Join Jason's e-mail list or log on to  
[www.parklandsfoundation.org](http://www.parklandsfoundation.org)**

**Have an article, idea or photo for the newsletter?  
Contact editor Gretchen Monti, 309-829-2450, or  
[gretchen.monti@verizon.net](mailto:gretchen.monti@verizon.net)**

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